

What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:

at least one video camera; and

5 at least one motion detector comprising a lens having a field of view fixedly directed to an area of interest, and an imager for receiving an image through said lens and converting said image to video data,

said motion detector being configured to monitor said video data for movement of an object in said field of view without application of at least one visual perception algorithm to said  
10 video data, and to provide a detector output in response to said movement of said object, said detector output being configured to cause adjustment of at least one operating characteristic of said video camera to target said camera on said object.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein said video camera comprises a dome-type  
15 camera.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein said lens comprises a wide-angle lens.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein said motion detector is fixedly mounted to  
20 said video camera.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein said imager comprises a CCD imager.

6. A system according to claim 1, wherein said imager comprises a CMOS imager.  
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7. A system according to claim 1, wherein said motion detector further comprises a motion detect sequencer configured for monitoring said video data for said movement of said object.

8. A system according to claim 7, wherein said motion detector further comprises a controller for receiving an output of said motion detect sequencer, said controller being configured to provide said detector output.

5 9. A system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one operating characteristic comprises a pan, tilt or zoom characteristic of said video camera.

10. A system according to claim 1, wherein said detector output is provided to modify a pan, tilt and zoom characteristic of said video camera.

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11. A system according to claim 1, said system further comprising at least one recording device, said recording device including a recording media, and wherein said detector is configured to provide a record command configured to cause said recording device to record at least a portion of a video output of said camera on said recording media while said camera is targeted on said object.

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12. A system according to claim 1, said system comprising a plurality of said motion detectors.

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13. A system according to claim 12, wherein said video data associated with each of said motion detectors is time multiplexed.

14. A system according to claim 12, wherein said field of view of at least two of said motion detectors overlap.

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15. A system according to claim 12, wherein said field of view of each of said motion detectors overlap.

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16. A system according to claim 12, wherein said motion detectors are configured in a circular pattern around said camera.

17. A system according to claim 12, wherein said fields of view of said motion detectors extend 360 degrees around said camera.

5 18. A system according to claim 12, wherein said motion detectors are affixed to an annular ring.

19. A system according to claim 18, wherein said annular ring is disposed around said camera.

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20. A system according to claim 1, said system further comprising a user control interface coupled to said camera for controlling said camera in response to user-initiated input.

15 21. A system according to claim 1, wherein said imager comprises a low resolution imager.

22. A system comprising:  
at least one video camera;

20 at least one motion detector comprising a wide-angle lens having a field of view fixedly directed to an area of interest, and an imager for receiving an image through said lens and converting said image to video data;

said motion detector being configured to monitor said video data for movement of an object in said field of view without application of at least one visual perception algorithm to said video data, and to provide a detector output in response to said movement of said object, said  
25 detector output being configured to cause adjustment of pan, tilt and zoom characteristics of said video camera to target said camera on said object; and

at least one recording device, said recording device including a recording media, said detector being configured to provide a record command configured to cause said recording device to record at least a portion of a video output of said camera on said recording media while  
30 said camera is targeted on said object.

23. A system according to claim 22, wherein said video camera comprises a dome-type camera.

24. A system according to claim 22, wherein said motion detector is fixedly mounted to said video camera.

25. A system according to claim 22, wherein said imager comprises a CCD imager.

26. A system according to claim 22, wherein said imager comprises a CMOS imager.

27. A system according to claim 22, wherein said motion detector further comprises a motion detection sequencer configured for monitoring said video data for said movement of said object.

28. A system according to claim 27, wherein said motion detector further comprises a controller for receiving an output of said motion detect sequencer, said controller being configured to provide said detector output.

29. A system according to claim 22, wherein said system further comprising a user control interface coupled to said camera for controlling said camera in response to user-initiated input.

30. A system according to claim 22, wherein said imager comprises a low resolution imager.

31. A motion detector comprising:  
a lens, and an imager for receiving an image through said lens and converting said image to video data,

said motion detector being configured to monitor said video data for movement of an object in a field of view of said lens without application of at least one visual perception algorithm to said video data, and to provide a detector output in response to said movement of said object, said detector output being configured to cause adjustment of at least one operating  
5 characteristic of a video camera to target said camera on said object.

32. A motion detector according to claim 31, wherein said lens comprises a wide-angle lens.

10 33. A motion detector according to claim 31, wherein said imager comprises a CCD imager.

34. A motion detector according to claim 31, wherein said imager comprises a CMOS imager.

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35. A motion detector according to claim 31, wherein said motion detector further comprises a motion detect sequencer configured for monitoring said video data for said movement of said object.

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36. A motion detector according to claim 35, wherein said motion detector further comprises a controller for receiving an output of said motion detect sequencer, said controller being configured to provide said detector output.

25 37. A motion detector according to claim 31, wherein said at least one operating characteristic comprises a pan, tilt or zoom characteristic of said video camera.

38. A motion detector according to claim 31, wherein said detector output is provided to modify a pan, tilt and zoom characteristic of said video camera.

39. A motion detector according to claim 31, wherein said imager comprises a low resolution imager.

40. A method of monitoring a moving object in a video system, said method comprising:  
5 providing at least one motion detector, said motion detector comprising a lens having a field of view fixedly directed to an area of interest, and an imager for receiving an image through said lens and converting said image to video data;

operating said motion detector to continually monitor said video data to detect movement of said moving object without application of at least one visual perception algorithm  
10 to said video data; and

providing an output from said motion detector in response to said movement to cause adjustment of at least one operating characteristic of a video camera to target said camera on said moving object.

15 41. A method according to claim 40, wherein said lens comprises a wide-angle lens.

42. A method according to claim 40, wherein said motion detector is configured to provide a record command configured to cause a recording device to record at least a portion of a video output of said camera on a recording media while said camera is targeted on said object.  
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43. A method according to claim 40, said method comprising providing a plurality of said motion detectors, each of said motion detectors being configured to monitor an associated stream of said video data.

25 44. A method according to claim 43, wherein said video data associated with each of said motion detectors is time multiplexed.

45. A method according to claim 43, wherein said field of view of at least two of said motion detectors overlap.  
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46. A method according to claim 43, wherein said field of view of each of said motion detectors overlap.

47. A method according to claim 43, wherein said motion detectors are configured in a circular pattern around said camera.

48. A method according to claim 43, wherein said fields of view of said motion detectors extend 360 degrees around said camera.

49. A method according to claim 43, wherein said motion detectors are affixed to an annular ring.

50. A method according to claim 49, wherein said annular ring is disposed around said camera.

51. A method according to claim 40, wherein said imager comprises a low resolution imager.

52. A method of monitoring multiple moving objects in a video system, said method comprising:

providing at least one motion detector, said motion detector comprising a lens having a field of view fixedly directed to an area of interest, and an imager for receiving an image through said lens and converting said image to video data;

operating said motion detector to continually monitor said video data to detect movement of said moving objects without application of at least one visual perception algorithm to said video data;

providing a plurality of outputs from said motion detector, each of said outputs being in response to movement of an associated one of said moving objects and being configured to cause adjustment of at least one operating characteristic of at least one associated video camera to target said at least one associated video camera on said associated one of said moving objects.

53. A method according to claim 52, wherein said outputs are sequentially provided. .

54. A method according to claim 53, wherein said detector is configured to provide at  
5 least one record command to record video of each of said moving objects while said at least one  
camera is targeted thereon.

55. A method according to claim 52, wherein said lens comprises a wide-angle lens.